

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1076  
By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ruth Gaines upon  
being selected to the Tennessee Teachers Hall  
of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to  
specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the  
highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gaines is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself  
as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gaines was recently inducted into the Tennessee Teachers Hall of  
Fame, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes the positive  
and enriching influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gaines joined the ranks of educators who have been previously  
inducted into the circle of honor of the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, which is co-  
sponsored each year by Middle Tennessee State University and overseen by a Board of  
Governors that represents major educational organizations statewide; and

WHEREAS, wholly deserving of this prestigious honor, Ruth Gaines has served with  
acumen and alacrity as an English teacher at Unicoi County High School for thirty-five years;  
and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Unicoi County High School, Ruth Gaines attended East  
Tennessee State University, majored in History and English, and graduated with a Bachelor of  
Science degree in Education; she also earned a Master of Arts in Education from Tusculum  
College in 1996; and

WHEREAS, having taught at Unicoi County High School since 1971, Mrs. Gaines will be  
taking a much deserved retirement at the conclusion of the 2005-2006 school year; and

WHEREAS, a warm and gentle teacher, she has earned the admiration and respect of her students and taught them how to respect each other and themselves; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gaines maintains high standards of classroom conduct, educational achievements, and leadership, and her expertise will be sorely missed when she retires at the end of the 2005-2006 school year; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously during her career to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as students and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a highly responsive teacher with an acute awareness of each student's needs, she always encourages students to believe in themselves and their individual talents; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gaines has truly served as an inspiration to the educational community of Tennessee, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gaines donates her talents and expertise to numerous professional organizations, including the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the Unicoi County Education Association, which she has served as Association Representative on the Negotiations Committee, and the National Council of Teachers of English, which she has served as a Delegate of the Representative Assembly and as Public Relations Chair; and

WHEREAS, deeply committed to the students of Unicoi County High School, Mrs. Gaines has served as Yearbook Advisor, Director of Graduation Ceremonies, Awards Day Coordinator, English Department Committee member, Teacher Advisory Council member, Director of Baccalaureate Services, Newspaper Advisor, School Improvement Team and SACS Review Committee Component Chair, and Textbook Committee member; and

WHEREAS, always striving to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens, Ruth Gaines is a valuable member of the Central Baptist Church Baptist Women's Club, Erwin Jaycees, Unicoi County Chamber of Commerce, Flag Pond Ruritan, Unicoi County Republican Party, and Republican Women; and

WHEREAS, a tireless contributor to the Miss America Organization, Mrs. Gaines has coordinated and supported numerous scholarship pageants, including Miss Historic Jonesborough, Miss Johnson City Scholarship Pageant, and Miss Watauga Valley Scholarship Pageant; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gaines is a highly respected citizen of the greater Unicoi County community, and she has devoted countless hours of volunteer work to the local Headstart program and the Jaycees Christmas Shopping Tour, which serves underprivileged children during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mrs. Gaines has been named Tennessee Education Association Distinguished Educator, Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, the Unicoi County Teacher of the Year, Ruritan of the Year, Jaycee of the Year, and Unicoi County Citizen of the Year; and

WHEREAS, she has also sponsored numerous organizations and events at Unicoi County High School, including twenty proms, the cheerleading squad, talent shows, and other school functions and programs; and

WHEREAS, her many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Mrs. Gaines is most thankful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband of thirty-four years, William James "Bill" Gaines; their marriage has been blessed with a wonderful daughter, Kristen Allen and her husband, Roger; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Gaines truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and her life of service should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Ruth Gaines, a woman of great inspiration, integrity, leadership, and compassion, upon being selected to the Tennessee Teachers Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

